

The foregoing amendments are being made to place the application in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. A favorable action is awaited.

Except for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, which may be required, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned should she find that an interview or further discussion might advance the examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

Dated: December 23, 1999

By: Michael S. Tuscan
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